

B1 -- A method for providing a level surface onto which a metallic coating may be applied is provided. Articles formed using the method are also provided. The method involves leveling the surface of a substrate by applying an electrophoresis polymeric coating followed by a physical vapor deposition of a metallic coating. --

In the claims:

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

B2 3. (Amended Once) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the polymerized layer includes elevating the temperature of the polymeric precursor to a temperature of at least about 320°F.

sub D1 4. (Amended Once) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric precursor is selected from the group consisting of acrylics, epoxies, urethanes, and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 25. (New) A method of coating a substrate, comprising:

B3 providing a substrate having a porous surface;  
forming a polymeric layer on the surface of the substrate by electrophoretically  
applying a layer of a polymeric precursor to at least a portion of the surface;  
polymerizing the polymeric precursor to form a polymerized layer; and  
applying a metal coating to at least a portion of the polymerized layer;  
wherein the metal coating is applied under sub-atmospheric conditions; and  
wherein the surface of the substrate is leveled before the step of applying the metal

coating.